Flood Protection Corridor Program

Project Evaluation Criteria

And Competitive Grant Application Form

March 2007

I. Introduction

Grant funds from Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006**,** to be allocated and disbursed under the Flood Protection Corridor Program (FPCP) of the Costa Machado Water Act of 2000 (Proposition 13) are available to local public agencies and nonprofit organizations from the Department of Water Resources. Funds will be used to pursue FPCP goals, which are to provide "for the protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors through all of the following actions:

"(1) Acquiring easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or enhancing the agricultural use of the real property.

"(2) Setting back existing flood control levees and, in conjunction with undertaking those setbacks, strengthening or modifying existing levees.

"(3) Acquiring interests in real property from willing sellers located in a floodplain that can not reasonably be made safe from future flooding.

"(4) Acquiring easements and other interests in real property from willing sellers to protect or enhance flood protection corridors while preserving or enhancing the wildlife value of the real property."

-- [Water Code, Chapter 5, Article 2.5, Section 79037(b)]

The following information constitutes the basis for determining whether a proposed project meets the legal criteria for funding under the Flood Protection Corridor Program and for evaluating the proposal to determine its priority in relation to all concurrent proposals. Proposals qualified under Section III of these criteria will be placed on one of two priority lists. If the proposal serves a flood protection need that is rated as a high priority by the Department of Water Resources (other than through this Program) and it also rated as a high priority *either* by the Department of Conservation for purposes of preserving agricultural land under the California Farmland Conservancy Program, *or* by the Department of Fish and Game for purposes of wildlife habitat or restoration, it will be placed on the "A List". All other qualified projects will be placed on the "B List". "A List" projects will be funded first, and when all "A List" projects have been funded to the Department's stated limit, "B List" projects will be funded.

II. General Information

Project Name: _____

Project Location: _____

_____County: _____

Assembly District_____ Senate District_____

Name and address of sponsoring agency or non-profit organization: _____

_____

Name of Project Manager (contact):

_____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Grant Request Amount: _____

_____ _____

Project Manager Title

_____

Date

Project Objective(s): Briefly describe your project and explain how it will advance FPCP goals and how it will reduce potential taxpayer liability for costs of repairing damages from future flooding. Please include a detailed map of the immediate project site and another that shows its location within your geographical area. Photographs showing problem areas proposed to be enhanced by the project should also be included.

***To be complete, an application package must include all of the items specified in Section 7 of the Grant Program Guidelines for the Allocation and Use of Proposition 84 Funds that is available on the FPCP web site (www.dfm.water.ca.gov/fpcp) by selecting the Guidelines link.**

III. Minimum Qualifications

Project proposals that do not meet the minimum qualifications will not be accepted.

A. The project proposes to use any granted funds for protection, creation, and enhancement of flood protection corridors *[Water Code Section 79037(b)]*.

B. A local public agency, a non-profit organization, or a joint venture of local public agencies, non-profit organizations, or both proposes the project *[Water Code Section 79037(a)]*.

C. The project will use the California Conservation Corps or a community conservation corps whenever feasible *[Water Code Section 79038(b)]*.

D. If it is proposed to acquire property in fee to protect or enhance flood protection corridors and floodplains while preserving or enhancing agricultural use, the proponent has considered and documented all practical alternatives to acquisition of fee interest *[Water Code Section 79039(a)]*.

E. Holders of property interests proposed to be acquired are willing to sell them *[Water Code Section 79040]*.

F. If it is proposed to acquire property interests, the proposal describes how a plan will be developed that evaluates and minimizes the impact on adjacent landowners prior to such acquisition and evaluates the impact on the following *[Water Code Section 79041]*:

- ►Floodwaters including water surface elevations and flow velocities
- ►The structural integrity of affected levees
- ►Diversion facilities
- ►Customary agricultural husbandry practices
- ►Timber extraction operations

The proposal must also describe maintenance required for a) the acquired property, b) any facilities that are to be constructed or altered.

G. The project site is located at least partially in one of the following:

1. A Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), or

2. An area that would be inundated if the project were completed and an adjacent FEMA SFHA were inundated, or

3. A FEMA SFHA, which is determined by using the detailed methods identified in FEMA Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners issued April 2003, or

4. A floodplain designated by The Reclamation Board under Water Code Section 8402(f) *[Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Division 2, Section 497.5(a)],* or a

5. Locally designated Flood Hazard Area, with credible hydrologic data to support designation of at lease one in 100 annual probability of flood risk. This is applicable to locations without levees, or where existing levees can be set back, breached, or removed. In the latter case, levee setbacks, removal, or breaching to allow inundation of the floodplain should be part of the project.

IV. (340 points) Flood Protection Benefits

A. Existing and potential urban development in the floodplain (50)

1. Describe the existing and potential urban development at the site and the nature of the flood risk.
2. How often has flooding occurred historically?
3. Discuss the importance of improving the flood protection at this location. Include the number of people and structures that are affected by the flood hazard, and the flood impacts to highways and roads, railroads, airports and other infrastructure, and agriculture.

B. Flood damage reduction benefits of the project (100)

1. Does the proposed project provide for transitory storage of floodwaters? What is the total community need for transitory storage related to this water course and what percentage of the total need does this project satisfy? What is the volume of water and how long is it detained?
2. Describe any structural and non-structural flood damage reduction elements of the project. (Examples of structural elements are levees, weirs, detention/retention basins, rock slope-protection, etc. Examples of non-structural elements are acquisition of property for open space, acquisition of land for flood flow easements, transitory storage, relocation of structures and other flood prone development, elevating flood prone structures, flood proofing structures, etc.)
3. By what methods and by how much dollar value will the project decrease expected average annual flood damages and reduce taxpayer liability for repairing flood-damaged property?
4. How does the project affect the hydrologic and hydraulic conditions at the project site and adjacent properties?
   a) Will the project reduce the magnitude of a flood flow, which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?
   b) What are the effects of the project on water surface elevations during a flood event which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?
   c) How are flow velocities impacted by the project during a flood flow which could cause property damage and/or loss of life?

C. Restoration of natural processes (60)

1. Describe how any natural channel processes will be restored (for example: for channel meander, sediment transport, inundation of historic floodplain, etc.) and describe how these natural processes will affect flood management and adjacent properties.
2. Describe any upstream or downstream hydraulic or other effects (such as bank erosion or scour, sediment transport, growth inducement, etc.).
3. If the project includes channel modification or bank protection work, will riprap or dredging be part of the design? If so, provide an analysis of potential benefits and impacts.

D. Project effects on the local community (60)

1. How will the project impact future flooding on and off this site?
2. How will the project affect emergency evacuation routes or emergency services and demands for emergency services?
3. Explain how the project will comply with the local community floodplain management ordinance and the floodplain management criteria specified in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA's NFIP).

E. Value of improvements protected (70)

1. What is the assessed value of structural improvements that will be protected by the project?
2. What is the estimated replacement value of any flood control facilities or structures protected by the project?

V. (340 points) Wildlife and Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

Proponent should provide a statement of the relative importance of the project's wildlife and agricultural land conservation benefits. DWR will use the statement and all other project materials to assign a fraction of the total benefits to each type (wildlife (F_w) or agricultural land conservation (F_a)) so that the fractions total unity. Actual points scored for each type of resource will be multiplied by the respective fraction for each resource, and the wildlife and agricultural scores resulting for each type of resource will be added together.

A. (340xF_w points) Wildlife Benefits

Habitat values refer to the ecological value and significance of the habitat features at this location that presently occur, have occurred historically, or will occur after restoration.

Viability refers to the site's ability, after restoration if necessary, to remain ecologically viable with minimal on-site management over the long-term, and to be able to recover from any natural catastrophic disturbances (fire, floods, etc.).

A1. Importance of the site to regional ecology (70)

1. Describe any habitat linkages, ecotones, corridors, or other buffer zones within or adjacent to the site. How will these be affected by the project?

2. Is the site adjacent to any existing conservation areas?

3. Describe any plans for aquatic restoration resulting in in-stream benefits.

4. Discuss any natural landscapes within the site that support representative examples of important, landscape-scale ecological functions (flooding, fire, sand transport, sediment trapping, etc.)?

A2. Diversity of species and habitat types (70)

1. Does the site possess any:
   i. areas of unique ecological and/or biological diversity?
   ii. vegetative complexity either horizontally or vertically?

2. Describe habitat components including year-round availability of water, adequate nesting/denning areas, food sources, etc.

3. Describe any superior representative examples of specific species or habitats.

4. Does the site contain a high number of species and habitat types? List and describe.

5. Does the site contain populations of native species that exhibit important subspecies or genetic varieties historically present prior to European immigration?

A3. Ecological importance of species and habitat types (100)

1. Discuss the significance of habitat types at this location and include any local, regional, or statewide benefits received by preserving or improving the area.

2. Does the site contain any significant wintering, breeding, or nesting areas? Does it fall within any established migratory corridors? What is the level of significance? How will these be affected by the project?

3. Describe any existing habitats that support any sensitive, rare, "keystone" or declining species with known highly restricted distributions in the region or state. Does the site contain any designated critical habitat? How will these be affected by the project?

4. What is the amount of shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) and riparian habitat to be developed, restored, or preserved?

A4. Public benefits accrued from expected habitat improvements (60)

1. Describe present public use/access, if any. For instance, does or will the public have access for the purpose of wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, photography, picnics, etc.

2. Discuss areas on the site that are critical for successfully implementing landscape or regional conservation plans. How will the project help to successfully implement the plans?

3. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other anthropogenic features. Do any surrounding areas detract from habitat values on the site?

4. Describe compatibility with adjacent land uses.

A5. Viability/sustainability of habitat improvements (40)

1. Describe any future operation, maintenance and monitoring activities planned for the site. How would these activities affect habitat values?

2. Does the site contain large areas of native vegetation or is it adjacent to large protected natural areas or other natural landscapes (for

example, a large stand of blue-oak woodland adjacent to public land)?

3. Is the watershed upstream of the site relatively undisturbed or undeveloped and likely to remain so into the foreseeable future? Describe its condition.

4. Describe any populations of native species or stands of native habitats that show representative environmental settings, such as soil, elevations, geographic extremes, or climatic conditions (for example, the wettest or most northerly location of a species within the state.)

B. (340xF_a points) Agricultural Land Conservation Benefits

B1. Potential productivity of the site as farmland (120)

1. Describe the quality of the agricultural land based on land capability, farmland mapping and monitoring program definitions, productivity indices, and other soil, climate and vegetative factors.

2. Are projected agricultural practices compatible with water availability?

3. Does the site come with riparian, mineral, and/or development rights?

4. Is the site large enough to sustain future commercial agricultural production?

5. Does the site contain any adverse or beneficial deed restrictions affecting agricultural land conservation?

6. Describe the present type of agricultural use including the level of production in relation to the site's productivity potential. What is the condition of the existing infrastructure that supports agriculture uses?

B2. Farming practices and commercial viability (40)

1. Does the area possess necessary market infrastructure and agricultural support services?

2. Are surrounding parcels compatible with commercial agricultural production?

3. Is there local government economic support in place for agricultural enterprises including water policies, public education, marketing support, and consumer and recreational incentives?

4. Describe any present or planned future environmentally friendly farm practices (no till, erosion control, wetlands avoidance, eco-friendly chemicals, recycling wastes, water conservation, biological pest control).

B3. Need and urgency for farmland preservation measures (70)

1. Is the project site under a Williamson Act contract?

2. Describe the surrounding vicinity. Include the presence or absence of large urban areas, rapidly developing areas, low density ranchette communities, and adjacent disturbed areas with non-native vegetation and other human-induced features. Do any surrounding areas detract from agricultural values on the site?

3. What types of conversion or development are likely on neighboring parcels? What are the land uses of nearby parcels? Describe the effects, if any, of this project to neighboring farming operations or other neighboring land uses.

4. Describe the relationship between the project site and any applicable sphere of influence.

5. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation.

B4. Compatibility of project with local government planning (50)

1. Is the agricultural land use on the project site consistent with the local General Plan? Does the General Plan demonstrate commitment to long-term agricultural conservation?

2. What is the present zoning and is the parcel developable?

3. Is there an effective right to farm ordinance in place?

4. Is the project description consistent with the policies of the Local Agency Formation Commission?

5. Will the project as proposed impact the present tax base?

B5. Quality of agricultural conservation measures in the project (50)

1. For agriculture lands proposed for conservation, describe any additional site features to be conserved that meet multiple natural resource conservation objectives, including wetland protection, wildlife habitat conservation, and scenic open space preservation where the conservation of each additional site feature does not restrict potential farming activities on the agriculture portions of the site.

2. What are the present biological/ecological values to wildlife? How will these values be affected by the proposed project?

3. Is the project proponent working with any local agricultural conservancies or trusts?

4. Does conservation of this site support long-term private stewardship of agricultural land? How does this proposal demonstrate an innovative approach to agricultural land conservation?

5. Without conservation, is the land proposed for protection likely to be converted to non-agricultural use in the foreseeable future?

VI. (320 points) Miscellaneous Benefits and Quality of Proposal

A. Size of request, other contributions, number of persons benefiting, cost of grant per benefited person (40)

Estimated Total Project Cost _____
Amount of FPCP Grant Funds Requested _____
Amount of Local Funds Contributed _____
Amount of In-kind Contributions _____
Additional Funding Sources

Number of persons expected to benefit _____
Flood Protection Corridor Funds per person benefited.* _____
(* Count as beneficiaries those receiving flood benefits, recreational users of habitat areas protected by the Project, and consumers of food products from agricultural areas conserved by the Project.)

B. Quality of effects on water supply or water quality (90)

1. Will water stored by the project provide for any conjunctive use, groundwater recharge, or water supply benefit?

2. Does the project fence cattle out?

3. Does the project pass water over newly developed fresh water marsh?

4. Does the project trap sediments?

C. Quality of impact on underrepresented populations or historic or cultural resources (60)

1. Does the project benefit underrepresented populations? Explain.

2. Are historical or cultural resources impacted by the project? Explain.

D. Technical and fiscal capability of the project team (60)

1. Does the project require scientific or technical expertise, and if so, is it provided for in the grant proposal?

2. Grant funds will be available in phases. What monitoring and reporting mechanisms are built into your administrative plan to track progress, initiation, and completion of successive phases?

3. Please outline your team's management, fiscal and technical capability to effectively carry out your proposal. Mention any previous or ongoing grant management experience you have.

E. Coordination and cooperation with other projects, partner agencies, and affected organizations and individuals (80)

1. List cost sharing and in-kind partners and any other stakeholders involved with your project and indicate the nature of their contribution, if any. Address the team's ability to leverage outside funds.

2. Does your project overlap with or complement previous or ongoing activities being carried out by others (such as CALFED, the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins Comprehensive Study, the Delta levee program, local floodplain management programs, the Reclamation Board's Designated Floodway program, or a multiple objective regional or watershed plan)? If so, indicate any coordination that has taken place to date or is scheduled to take place in the future.

3. Will this application, if approved, begin the next phase of a previously approved project or advance an ongoing project substantially toward completion?

4. Describe how the proposal demonstrates a coordinated approach among affected landowners, local governments, and nonprofit organizations. If other entities are affected, is there written support for the proposal and a willingness to cooperate?

Thank you for taking the time and effort to fill out this application. Please send one hard copy with required signatures by 3:00 p.m. on [day and month], 2007 to:

Earl Nelson, Program Manager
Flood Protection Corridor Program
Division of Flood Management
3310 El Camino Ave. Room 110
Sacramento, CA 95821

Please also send an electronic copy on flash drive or CD (not e-mail) by 3:00 p.m. on [day and month], 2007 to:

[recipient' name] at [e-mail address]@water.ca.gov